Firms urge Biden to cut greenhouse emissions in half by 2030

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Body

A coalition of more than 300 businesses including Apple Inc., Nike Inc. and McDonald's Corp. on Tuesday urged the Biden administration to seek a halving of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by the end of the decade.

The letter was organized by the sustainability nonprofit Ceres and We Mean Business, a coalition of nonprofit organizations that support business action on climate change. Signatories also include Facebook Inc., General Electric Co., Microsoft Corp. and Walmart Inc.

"We join the majority of Americans in thanking you for re-entering the U.S into the Paris Agreement and for making climate action a vital pillar of your presidency," the letter said. "To restore the standing of the U.S. as a global leader, we need to address the climate crisis at the pace and scale it demands."

The signatories represent more than $3 trillion in revenue and employ 6 million Americans in all 50 states.

The push comes ahead of the Leaders Summit on Climate scheduled to begin April 22, where the administration will announce the U.S. nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement.

Under the previous pledge by President Barack Obama, the U.S. said it would cut emissions by 26 percent to 28 percent from 2005 levels. However a February study from the National Academies of Science said there were additional steps the U.S. could take to cut emissions further by 2030, such as producing more carbon-free electricity and electrifying transportation, buildings and industry.

Colorado, Massachusetts and Rhode Island passed legislation requiring state leaders to meet the 2030 target.

The letter notes many of the signatories have set emission reductions targets that align with provisions of the Paris Agreement, including working to meet the ultimate goal of net-zero emissions by 2050. A "bold target" would spur new investment, create well-paying jobs and allow the U.S. to build back from the pandemic, they added, while inspiring additional action from other industrialized nations and the private sector.

"If you raise the bar on our national ambition, we will raise our own ambition to move the U.S. forward on this journey," the letter said. "While an effective national climate strategy will require all of us, you alone can set the course by swiftly establishing a bold US 2030 target."

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